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DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EAP/RSP/TC, EAP/PA, EAP/PD -  
ROBERT PALLADINO  
DEPARTMENT PASS AIT/WASHINGTON

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TAGS: OPRC KMDR KPAO TW

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: CROSS-STRAIT RELATIONS, U.S.  
ARMS SALES

Summary: Local politics and the fishing dispute between Taiwan and Japan remained the focus of the major Chinese-language Taipei dailies June 23. The pro-independence "Taiwan Daily" did nonetheless run an editorial discussing the possibility of both sides of the Taiwan Strait moving towards unification. With the unification model set by West and East Germany in mind, and the recent discussion of the possible unification of South and North Koreas, the editorial asserted that only when China establishes a democratic system and eliminates the differences between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait can Taiwan and China unify. The limited-circulation, pro-independence English-language "Taipei Times" also looked past fishing and local politics to run editorial discussing U.S. arms sales to Taiwan. The editorial urged Washington to continue to exert pressure on the Pan-Blue camp so as to pave a way for passage of the arms bill in the Legislative Yuan. End summary.

#### 11. Cross-Strait Relations

"Only When China Establishes a Democratic and Free System and Eliminates the Differences [between the Two] Can Both Sides of the Taiwan Strait Create a Win-Win Situation"

The pro-independence "Taiwan Daily" [circulation: 150,000] editorialized (6/23):

". . If [we] view the development of the cross-Strait situation from the 'unification models' set [possibly] by South and North Koreas and by East and West Germanies, it is worth pondering that even though East and West Germany and South and North Korea are generally regarded as nation-states that share a common language and are of a common ethnicity, their road to unification [has been and will be] rugged and tough. When we look at Taiwan and China, both are independent sovereign states. But after having been ruled by foreign races such as the Dutch, Japanese and Chinese people, Taiwan has generated a culture and value system that are distinct from those of China's. The big differences between Taiwan and China, ranging from their daily customs, languages, cultures, and social values, are exactly the barriers to their unification. Over these past years, many incidents have happened during exchanges between both sides of the Taiwan Strait, which are evidence that the divergence in people's thoughts and values between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait will not be eliminated but will be enlarged due to these exchanges. In reality, the gap present in the minds of the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait still exists.

"Even though voices in Taiwan calling for a closer relationship with China and union with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) are strong, and the political powers supporting this trend are large, too, both sides of the Taiwan Strait cannot unify with each other simply for the sake of unification. Should there be the possibility of unification in the future, it must be built on a system of democracy and freedom. Taiwan's unification with China should not be a situation that it is annexed or devoured by a bigger country. Instead, Taiwan and China should establish a cooperative partnership, putting aside their political differences and working jointly for their economic prosperity in an attempt to create a win-win situation that will benefit the development of both sides. Taiwan, on the other hand, also needs to strengthen its democratization and localization concepts, deepen its human rights education so as to resist the threats of the pro-China and pro-CCP groups and face the various kinds of united front attacks launched by China after it enacted the Anti-Secession Law."

#### 12. U.S. Arms Sales

"Allies Need to Face the Awful Truth"

The pro-independence, English-language "Taipei Times" [circulation: 30,000] commented in an editorial (6/23):

". Before a united national identity can finally be forged, Taiwan's allies and friends need to reflect on just who their true friends in this country really are.

"Taiwan needs to be equipped with advanced weaponry to strengthen its ability to defend itself against China's military juggernaut.

"The US must continue to exert pressure, therefore, on the pan-blue camp so that a road can be paved for the passage of the arms bill."

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